

The INDIAFRICA 2014 contests (Business Venture, Poster Design and Photography Competitions) were announced at Davos on January 23 and entries are now open. The top 10 from both Africa and India in the Photography and Poster Design contests will win cash prizes of Rs. 25,000 each and also see their work travel across the world as part of INDIAFRICA exhibitions. The Business Venture Competition offers cash prizes worth Rs. 15,00,000 from the WOXSEN School of Business and Rs. 10,00,000 from the Ministry of External Affairs. Participants can also win equity investments and mentorship from INDIAFRICA's three Enterprise Partners - Indian Angel Network, GSF India and Villgro. africa.com offers the winners from India and Africa a website creation and web management services for one year worth USD 1000. The Oxford Business Group offers a free 3-year subscription (worth US\$2500) to their Online Library upon registration. The SAID Business School offers a Delegate Badge for 1 African and 1 Indian Venture to attend the Skoll World Forum 2015 at Oxford, United Kingdom. The top 8 teams (4 each from Africa and India) will compete for top honours at the Grand Jury in Ghana in June. The winning African and Indian teams will both win a trip to Davos during the WEF Annual Meeting 2015.

Launched in 2011, 'INDIAFRICA: A Shared Future' is a unique people-to-people outreach programme that invites creative exchange between young Africans and Indians through a multidisciplinary series of contests and the Young Visionaries Fellowship Programme for entrepreneurs. It has been conceptualised by IdeaWorks Design & Strategy Pvt Ltd, a Delhi based communication strategy and design firm. IdeaWorks runs the programme with support from Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The Business Venture, Essay Writing, Photography and Poster Design competitions have enabled talented young Indians and Africans to exchange ideas on emergent realities, successes and challenges, and explore future collaborations in business, design and culture.

The Young Visionaries Fellowship Programme identifies promising young entrepreneurs in India & Africa and offers them opportunities for growth, collaboration and mentorship. The driving vision is to encourage cross-fertilization of ideas, increased trade, and a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities of doing business across both geographies. In its first edition, the Fellowship invited applications from Education, Energy, Environment, Food & Agriculture, Healthcare, Creative and Cultural Industries. A jury of young achievers from India and Africa selected 6 Africans and 6 Indians who spent a week in a Boot Camp at ISB Hyderabad with a view to forging business partnerships. Two INDIAFRICA joint venture proposals that emerged from the Boot Camp are currently being evaluated for equity investment.

In the first two years of its operation, INDIAFRICA has received over 10,000 registrations from participants from over 39 African countries. It has reached over 400 campuses across Africa and has successfully organised live campus events in 15 African countries. 184 cash prizes worth over USD224000 have been won by young people from 19 African countries and India. Year 2 of the programme culminated in a unique 12 day INDIAFRICA Festival at Johannesburg in May 2013.

Leading institutions from both regions have come on board as partners to support the programme. Among them are Lagos Business School, Nigeria; Indian School of Business, Hyderabad; National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad; WITS Business School, Johannesburg; WOXSEN School of Business, Hyderabad; Faculty of Art, Design & Architecture, University of Johannesburg; Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, Accra; SAID Business School, Oxford University, United Kingdom; Stellenbosch Academy of Design & Photography, South Africa and Zimbabwe Institute of Visual Arts, Zimbabwe.

The African and Indian winners of the 2012 and 2013 INDIAFRICA Business Venture Competition travelled to Davos at the time of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in 2013 and 2014 and had the opportunity of interacting with CEOs and domain experts. EXPRESSIONS OF FREEDOM, an exhibition curated by INDIAFRICA as a tribute to the late Nelson Mandela, at Davos in January 2014, featured prize winning entries from the Poster Design and Photography Competitions and contributions from Jury Members.

As the world discovers Africa as a market and source of talent, INDIAFRICA is seeking to strengthen traditional partnerships throughout the world by trying to find collaborative solutions to common challenges and build a shared future.